

HB854 Statewide Housing Study

Program Fact Sheet

Virginia Housing Trust Fund Homelessness Reduction Grant (HTF-HRG)

Department of Housing and Community
Development

Note: This fact sheet was created in October 2021. Program details can change regularly. For the most up-to-date information on this program and a program contact, please visit the link below:

[Link to program website](#)

01 Program goals

The goal of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund: Homeless Reduction Grant (HTF-HRG) is to reduce homelessness in the Commonwealth of Virginia. DHCD supports Continuum of Care (CoC)/Balance of State Local Planning Group (LPG) strategies and homeless service projects that are a part of an effective emergency crisis response system in communities to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

02 Funding sources

This program is fully funded by the state through the Virginia Housing Trust Fund.

03 Governance

Funding decisions for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund: Homeless Reduction Grant are made in two parts: the community-based applications that are accepted as part of the Homeless and Special Needs Housing grants application, and an individual application to the HTF-HRG submitted by the proposed grantee organization.

- The community-based application provides the foundation for the community's needs and establishes how the emergency crisis response system operates within the community.
- The individual application to the HTF-HRG submitted by the proposed grantee organization details the proposed project and related activities and how this project will fill a gap within the community's emergency crisis response system and/or complement existing services.

04 Population served

Client eligibility is based on the project activity. Project activities funded by the HTF-HRG and client eligibility for each are provided below:

- **Rapid Re-housing:** Rapid re-housing assistance is limited to literally homeless households. These are households who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes those currently residing in a shelter and those exiting an institution (where they resided temporarily for 90 days or fewer) with no housing resources.
- **Underserved Populations Innovation Project:** The Underserved Population Innovation Project targets members of an underserved population that are experiencing homelessness. Underserved populations are defined by a lack of resources targeted towards providing culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services for a vulnerable population.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing (Housing Stabilization Services and Rental Assistance for Chronic Homeless):** Permanent Supportive Housing program targets individuals and families who meet

the HUD definition of chronic homelessness.

05 How program works

The Homeless Reduction Grant comprises up to 20 percent of the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. Grant contracts are awarded through a competitive application process to projects coordinated with their Continuum of Care (CoC)/Balance of State Local Planning Group (LPG) strategies and are a part of an effective emergency crisis response system to ensure homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring. Eligible projects include rapid re-housing for literally homeless households, innovative projects for underserved populations, and rental assistance and stabilization services for chronically homeless households residing in permanent supportive housing.

For the 2021 grant cycle, DHCD added two innovation projects to increase flexibility of this grant program to better meet the needs of two special populations: unaccompanied homeless youth and homeless older adults.

For the most recent grant cycle (release date October 1, 2021), DHCD made the above into a singular Underserved Populations Innovation Project to increase flexibility and allow for research, training, and piloting of innovative solutions to prevent and end homelessness for persons in underserved populations.

06 Program history

This program began in 2013.

07 Program highlights

- Investment in HTF-HRG has been consistently increasing --- reaching a historic \$2.2 million in the 2019-2020 program year.
- Funding for permanent supportive housing has concurrently increased, from

just under \$200,000 in 2016-2017 to nearly \$900,000 in 2019-2020.

- For the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 funding cycles, HTF-HRG served 298 adults without children, 526 adults with children, and 837 children through rapid re-housing; 598 adults without children, 2 adults with children, and 1 child through permanent supportive housing.